

Blackheaded Gulls (*L. ridibundus*), but their comparatively diminutive size was immediately distinctive, as also the absence of any black in the primaries. The blackish bill suggested Gullbilled Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*), but the white tail was not forked as in the latter. The blackish underwing, tern-like flight (with rapid wing-flapping) and habit of flicking food off the water surface--and of course the small size for a gull—are the points on which my tentative identification rests. What other species it *can* be is difficult to guess!

46, PALI HILL, BANDRA,
BOMBAY 400 050,
May 27, 1974.

SÁLIM ALÍ

9. WHITECHEEKED TERN *STERNA REPRESSA* HARTERT IN BOMBAY

On 26th June 1973 a tern with one leg almost completely missing below the tarsal joint was brought to me by a local boy who had picked it up on the beach. Though the wound appeared to have healed the bird died within a few hours, no doubt due to other causes, and I sent it to the Bombay Natural History Society where Mr Humayun Abdulali has identified it as *Sterna repressa* Hartert.

This species is known to nest on the Vengurla Rocks off Ratnagiri, southern Maharashtra, but this is the first record from the Bombay neighbourhood. I referred to the Regional Meteorological Centre, Colaba, Bombay to know the prevailing weather conditions and was informed that from 24th to 26th June there was no stormy weather but a northwesterly wind with a speed of 5 to 10 knots prevailed.

The primaries and tail are both in moult but the black cap on the head precludes its being an immature.

SIR MOHAMUD YUSUF TRUST,
C. I. CAMPUS,
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MAHARASHTRA,
July 26, 1973.

PRABHAKARA MENON